Hughes' Gifts Went Astray, Lawyer Says

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LOS ANGELES, Dec. 15 (UPI)—Thousands of dollars given by Howard R. Hughes to a go-between for delivery to political candidates, including Hubert H. Humphrey, never reached the intended recipients, a lawyer for Hughes claimed in a court brief filed Friday.

The amount actually delivered by Robert Maheu, former head of Hughes' Nevada empire, was $89,800 short of the amount he was entrusted with, Howard Faffe said.

Jaffe's brief was filed as part of a complex legal battle between Hughes and Maheu, who was fired by Hughes.

Jaffe said that Maheu had been given $475,000 to distribute to politicians, but that only $385,200 reached the candidates.

Humphrey never received $50,000 of Hughes money that Maheu was supposed to deliver, Jaffe said.

Maheu said in earlier depositions that he gave the money, in an attache case, to Humphrey in a limousine parked outside the Century Plaza Hotel here in 1968. Humphrey, now a Democratic senator from Minnesota, was then Vice President and the Democratic presidential candidate, running against Richard M. Nixon.

Humphrey has denied ever receiving the money.